



Spokane ♦ Vancouver ♦ Pasco ♦ Puyallup ♦ Bellevue ♦ Seattle ♦ Everett

This summer Governor Gregoire and her senior staff are visiting several communities across the state, engaging citizens in a meaningful dialogue about state government's priorities, performance and accountability. She is reaching out beyond the lobbyists and special interests who traditionally have had the most access to state government decision makers. As she puts it,

"We can't set the state's priorities alone in Olympia. I am reaching out to hear directly from the citizens, so they can help me set priorities and identify ways to measure whether state government is working better or not."

The citizen engagement process is designed in three tiers to engage citizens in a meaningful dialogue, and to gather information from multiple sources.

1. **Citizen Workshops:** Fifty citizens are selected at random to represent a cross-section of each community. These citizens meet with members of the governor's staff for a three-hour workshop to discuss, design, and prioritize performance measures to track progress in critical services, such as health care, the economy, transportation and education.
2. **Community Leader events:** Community leaders representing a broad spectrum of interests and organizations meet with the governor's senior staff to discuss the priorities developed in the citizen workshops, delving further into the most important issues in that community.
3. **Town Halls:** In an open community forum, Governor Gregoire will ask citizens directly what results they think their state government ought to be accountable for delivering.

Governor Gregoire will use the citizens' ideas to inform state budget development in the fall. She also conducts bi-weekly performance review sessions with agency directors, holding them personally accountable for delivering real results and ensuring that citizens get a good return on their tax dollars.

A final report on the summer's tour will be completed by August 31, 2006.

Pasco / Tri-Cities Citizen Forum: Summary Report

Wednesday, July 12, 2006 at Columbia Basin Community College

Who was at the Pasco / Tri-Cities Citizens Forum?

- 52 citizens, a representative sample drawn from a list of people who voted at least once in past 4 elections. Gender: 55% male, 45% female
- Where from: 19% City of Pasco, 37% Kennewick, 23% Richland, 21% Franklin County
- Age Group: 16% were 18-35, 33% were 36-50, 37% were 51-64, and 14% were 65 or older
- Household: 18% Single, no children; 37% Couple, no children; 6% Single, children at home; 39% Couple, children at home
- Employment: 33% private sector; 33% public sector, 34% not employed or retired

Here's what the citizens in Pasco / Tri-Cities said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:

1) economy 2) education 3) health care 4) safety

Overall Comments:

- Concerns about existing and new taxes
- "I think this is the first time this (listening workshop) has ever been done. Thank you." (applause)
- State government is working: Better (10%) About the same (65%) Worse (25%). This closely matches the responses from a statewide survey conducted in April 2006

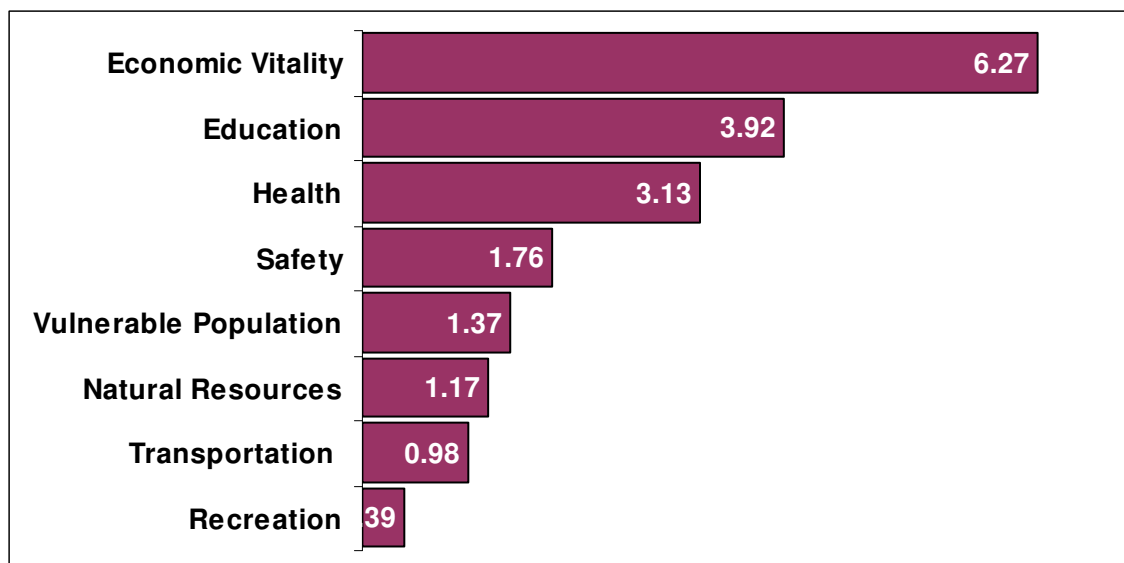
What is not working very well in state government today:

- State industrial insurance
- Education system.
- Taxes just go up and up
- Cuts to department of disabilities
- Need more PE classes
- Too much polarization between parties
- Gas tax too high (it's 17 cents/gallon lower in OR, and they pump it for you)
- Safety net for most needy people
- Education system is too expensive (WASL, teacher training)
- Support for families (defined as one woman, one man, and children)
- Need more state pressure on federal government for Hanford cleanup
- Unaffordable health insurance for small business
- Property taxes too high for people on fixed incomes
- MVET gone, but transportation construction still going; they found the money somewhere

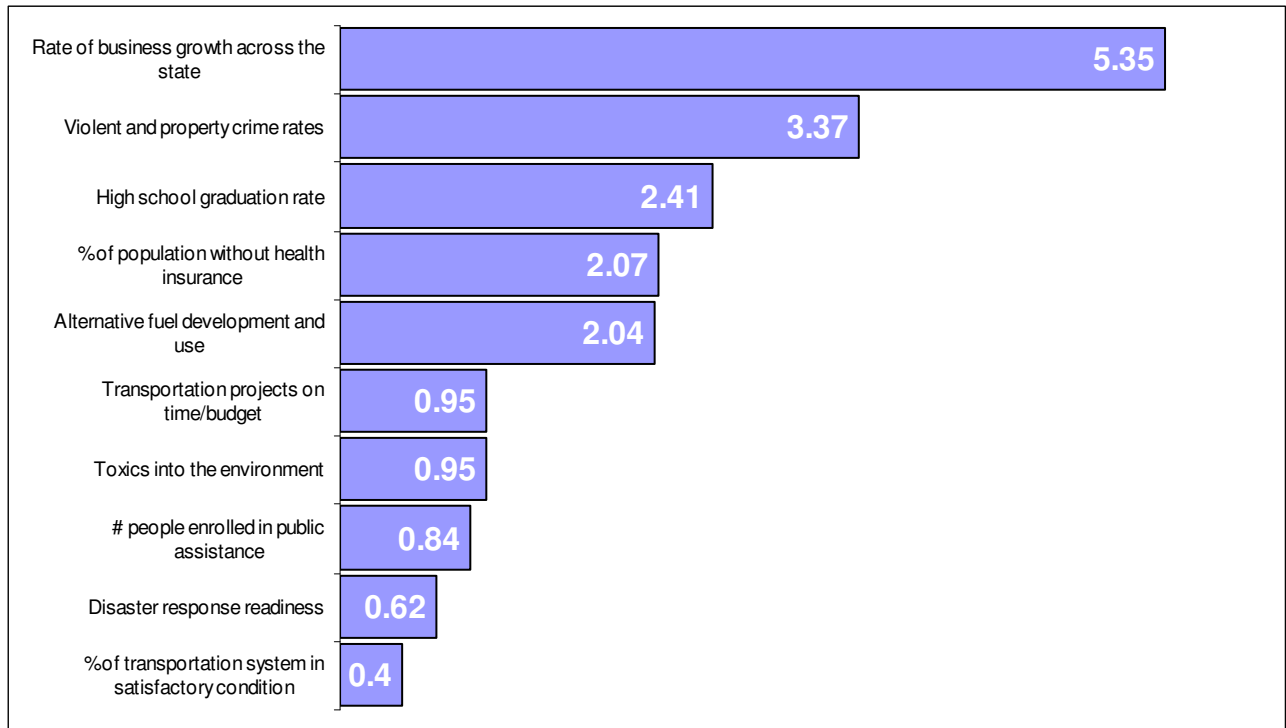
What is working well in state government today:

- Health insurance for children aged 0-19
- Eastern part of state is getting more established with its own political presence and business base (wine, agriculture, and colleges)
- Roads are better
- Public health (but need more)
- Collaboration between WSU and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories

Here's what the citizens in Pasco / Tri-Cities said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:



Here are the top 10 “Vital Signs” – how citizens will know if state government is working better (or worse)



For more information about the Governor's Listening to You tour, visit

www.governor.wa.gov